

What is Claimed:

1. A data structure formatted according to extensible markup language (XML) including data representative of a canonical UI description of a device to be controlled for use by a universal console.
2. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A .
3. A data structure according to claim 2, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A .
4. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.
5. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2 , with increment δ .
6. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x_1 through x_2 , with increment δ .
7. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s .

8. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S .
9. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s , resulting in a second string s' .
10. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A' .
11. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.
12. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.
13. A data structure according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI description includes a representation associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.
14. A data structure according to claim 13, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.